



## CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Round Table Conference, 11 June 2012, Copenhagen

### Future challenges in response to disasters

Key actors in European disaster management primarily from the Participating States in the European Civil Protection Mechanism, the European Parliament, and the Commission joined the Round Table Conference in Copenhagen. The discussion focused on the main challenges for the future of the EU's disaster response.

The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in 2009, introduced a new specific article for civil protection, providing for "co-decision" procedure between the Council and the European Parliament for the adoption of legislative acts.

The Danish EU Presidency, by Minister of Defence Nick Hækkerup, invited EU Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva and MEP Elisabetta Gardini, rapporteur on the civil protection legislative proposal, to present their views on the main challenges for the future, and how to manage these challenges.

It has been noted that:

- Disasters are affecting a growing number of people both inside and outside the Union in today's complex and mutually dependent societies.
- The consequences of disasters are becoming more expensive. The financial constraints are demanding the need of smart solutions in developing common tools in response to disasters.
- Civil protection policies enable to demonstrate in practical terms the commitment to support those in need of assistance inside and outside the Union.
- Building resilience, working with the underlying causes of disasters as well as learning from experience are all key essentials in meeting future disasters.
- Work on the future cooperation presented in the Commission legislative proposal for a Union Civil Protection Mechanism is in progress both in the Council and in the European Parliament
- Together, within the Union, we work for an ambitious and effective cooperation, which respects the balance between Member States' responsibility to provide protection to their own citizens and the solidarity they have pledged to each other in case of need.

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